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Italy removes quarantine condition for Kuwait travelers

KUWAIT: Travelers coming from Kuwait are now allowed to enter Italy for tourism and are no longer subject to quarantine, the Italian Ministry of Health announced. Consequently, the Embassy of Italy in Kuwait announced resuming issuing visas from yesterday. Applications for Schengen visa can be submitted through VFS Global. For other types of visas (national, study, medical treatment, official visits), applications must be submitted to the embassy, it said.

Entry in the Italian territory is only allowed to people vaccinated with one of the four vaccines recognized there: AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and Moderna. Other conditions for entry in Italy are the submission of a "passenger locator form" available online or at the airport and a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) taken no more than 72 hours before landing, the embassy explained.

Society seeks to cover dialysis costs for 1,000 patients

KUWAIT: Director of Kuwait Humanitarian Friendship Society Khaled bin Sabt said the "Khairna fi Kuwaitna" (our good is in our Kuwait) campaign, which is dedicated to help financially struggling kidney patients, will continue until the end of October. The goal of the campaign is to cover expenses of kidney dialysis for 1,000 patients, he said. Donations will be used to cover the patients' dialysis sessions, he noted, adding that people who wish to donate can do so on the society's website at www.khf-kwt.com.



Khaled bin Sabt

Photo of the Day



KUWAIT: High rise buildings are seen from the beach in Salmiya. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

Kuwait interior minister receives Indian ambassador

KUWAIT: Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah received Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sibi George in his office yesterday. During the meeting, wide ranging discussions were held covering all aspects of the close bilateral relations between Kuwait and India, according to a press release issued by the Indian embassy.

Both sides deliberated on ways and means of further strengthening the existing bilateral cooperation across various domains, including health and security. The two sides also discussed about latest evolving situation related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and matters of mutual interest. Further, the two sides also discussed all matters related to Indian diaspora in Kuwait. Ambassador George thanked the leadership and the government of Kuwait for taking care of the Indian community in Kuwait especially during the challenging times witnessed due to the pandemic, the release added.



KUWAIT: Indian Ambassador Sibi George presents a memento to Interior Minister Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Hotels, venues start receiving bookings for celebrations

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Hotels and conference venues are now being booked after the government gave the green light to hold weddings, gatherings, events and activities, but with extra health precautions. "For the first time after almost 20 months, we have wedding celebrations and birthday parties in our hotel's function rooms. We were silenced by the coronavirus pandemic for months, which was very unfortunate, but it was a right move by the government to protect us against the pandemic," a hotel manager told Kuwait Times.

The hospitality industry was one of the most affected sectors during the pandemic, which led to a ban on gatherings such as weddings, community events and conferences, including workshops and seminars. Thousands of people were laid off or lost their jobs completely as a result.

Now, however, the industry is gearing up for a comeback. "We are back, thank God," the banquet manager said. Both five- and four-star hotels confirmed a sudden increase in reservations for events and seminars.

"Bookings are open and we hope they will increase in the coming months. Although we have a shortage of manpower, we are going to manage with the minimum staff we have. In the next few weeks, we will resume all activities in our conference halls and ballrooms. We have a reservation for 100 persons for a wedding next week," he added.

Some clients are in a hurry to book their events, especially in the month of December, when many holiday events are held. "I called a hotel yesterday to book for December 17 for our company's holiday party, but the date was already reserved, so I got the nearest available date," a company organizer said.

Amid a decline in COVID-19 infections, Kuwait returned to normalcy from Sunday, with various sectors returning to full capacity. Kuwait airport resumed operations at full capacity and worshippers in mosques are now praying without distancing, although social distancing is still in force in closed places such as shopping malls, restaurants and cafes.



KUWAIT: Secretary General of International Civil Defense Organization (ICDO) Njoupouo YAP Mariatou decorated Kuwait Fire Force Chief Lt Gen Khaled Rakan Al-Mikrad with the ICDO international commander medal in appreciation of Kuwait's efforts in supporting countries and people during crises and catastrophes.

Kuwait participates in AI defense tech event in Jordan

AMMAN: The first edition of the Artificial Intelligence Defense Technology and Cyber Security Exhibition and Conference (AIDTSEC 2021) kicked off yesterday on the Dead Sea shores in Jordan under the aegis of Jordanian Crown Prince Al-Hussein bin Abdullah II. In the opening speech, Jordanian Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship Ahmad Hanandeh affirmed the government's realization of having an active cybersecurity system, locally and internationally. He noted that his country aims to keep up with the latest digital developments around the world and to seize all opportunities to innovate and reinforce technology in Jordan.

According to organizers, SOFEX, AIDTSEC, the two-day event paves the way for industry makers to spark motivation and inspire decision makers of the Defense, security, and governmental sectors. This helps to expand the capacity in order to address current and future challenges, place strategies in a global context, and position forces for high performance. This is the first exhibition to take place in Jordan and the Region, a biennial conference established to be the region's most significant AI conference, aiming to bring together the lead AI guru's in Defense Technologies and Cyber Security. AIDTSEC will take on how latest technologies and advancements in artificial intelligence and robotic engineering can aid in creating solutions that are vital for day-to-day operations in the defense industry, digital transformation and infrastructure, big data and data analytics, cyber security, data protection, and many more important AI-related subjects. Kuwait's Ministry of Defense participated in the conference, represented by Staff Brigadier General Omar Al-Sabti. — KUNA

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